

of Nat. Hist. for February last, p. 379, you are right in supposing it to have been the Bottle-nosed Whale that was taken near Liverpool. It was exhibited on the Cheshire coast, opposite Liverpool: I went and saw it. It measured 25 feet long and 13 feet in girth; from the point of the nose to the pectoral fin 6 feet, pectoral fin 2 feet 5 inches, from the point of the nose to the eye 3 feet 9 inches. From the origin of the dorsal fin to the end of the tail 9 feet; width of tail 6 feet, dorsal fin 20 inches; from the eye to the gape 21 inches. It was caught at East Hoylake in four feet water, and when first seen was throwing the water from the blow-hole two roods high. The fishermen attempted to stick grappling irons into its sides, but they slid off; and when its assailants were about to give up the chase, (by this time the tide was making fast, and the whale was exerting itself to get away,) one of the prongs of the grappling irons slid along, and by chance caught in the blow-hole, after which it blew no more water and died almost instantly without a struggle. After being shown opposite Liverpool for a few days, it was taken back to Hoylake, cut up, and boiled for oil. Its stomach contained an immense quantity of cuttle-fish beaks, in fact there was nothing else in it. There were two teeth in the lower jaw, very conical in form, and very sharp-pointed. The part which was above the socket resembles a cock's spur, but the lower half is suddenly swelled out and hollow. They measure 1 inch 8 lines in length; no part of them was observable above the gum, and it was not till I cut for them that I saw them. The bones were purchased by the Committee of the Royal Institution, and I intend having them put up this summer.—HENRY JOHNSON, Royal Institution.

Liverpool, April 25, 1840."

REMARKABLE CHANGE OF HABIT IN THE HARE.

MY DEAR LORD,—I send you the story of the Hares I told at Florence-court; Major Bingham is the proprietor alluded to, and my father related the story in a Lecture for the Zoological Society 'On the Instinct of Animals.'

Most truly yours,

*To the Earl of Enniskillen.*

S. G. OTWAY.

April 22, 1840.

"A considerable landed proprietor has a large tract of sand hills within the Mullet, which tract (open as it is to all the Atlantic storms) has been found to have been greatly impaired by the introduction of rabbits, who by their burrowing and disturbing the bent

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grass gave facilities to the wind to operate, and so the sand hills were, year after year, changing their position, encroaching on the cultivated ground. To remedy this, he determined to destroy the rabbits, and in their place introduced hares, which he knew, or thought he knew, would not burrow : but here he was mistaken ; for the animal soon found that it must leave the district or change its habit ; for if on a winter night it attempted to sit in its accustomed form, it would find itself buried perhaps twenty feet in the morning under the blowing sand, as under a snow rath. Accordingly the Hares have burrowed ; they chase out a thin and high sand hill, which stands somewhat like a solidified wave of the sea. Through this Puss perforates a horizontal hole from east to west, with a double opening ; and seating herself at the mouth of the windward orifice, she there awaits the storm ; and as fast as her hill wastes away, she draws back, ready at all times to make a start in case the storm rise so as to carry off the hill altogether."

NOTE ON ANIMALCULES. BY E. FORBES, ESQ.

Two vessels of sea-water, the one containing a sea urchin, the other a portion of *Spongia papillosa*, were suffered to remain unchanged until the animals died. That containing the *Echinus* was placed in a dark place, that containing the sponge in a window exposed to the sunlight. In about ten days' time the latter became of a beautiful green colour, while the former remained transparent though a thick scum gathered on the surface. The water of each was then submitted to the microscope, and both were found to abound in animalcules. The green colour of the sponge water was found to be derived from innumerable animals of the genus *Volvox*, among which were seen minute worm-like animalcules and other smaller forms. The urchin water contained no *Volvox*, but abounded in large *Polygastrica* which darted about with great rapidity.

Wishing to examine the structure of these creatures, I adopted the following plan, which seems to me much superior to the usual method ; namely, isolating one specimen to a drop of the sea-water containing the animalcules, I added an equal quantity of fresh water. The effect was instantaneous ; the rapid motions of the little creatures were suddenly arrested ; they were paralysed, but not killed, and their internal structure was beautifully displayed. They were as voracious as ever, for on mixing some carmine with the water, in half an hour's time their (so-called) stomachs were coloured with the pigment they had devoured. It was a very curious sight

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